

Remarks

In the Final Office Action dated August 19, 2008, the following rejections are noted: claims 1-9, 13, 15 and 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112(1) as failing to comply with written description requirements; claims 1-6, 8, 9, 13, 15, and 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Venkataraman reference (“An Efficient Bist Scheme Based on Reseeding of Multiple Polynomial Linear Feedback Shift Register”) in view of Distler (US Patent Pub. 2002/0099992); claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Venkataraman and Distler references in view of the Wang reference (“Generating Efficient Tests for Continuous Scan”); claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Venkataraman and Distler references in view of the Barnhart reference (“OPMISR: The Foundation for Compressed ATPG Vectors”); and claims 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Venkataraman and Distler references in view of the Jas reference (“Test Vector Decompression via Cyclical Scan Chains and Its Application to Testing Core-Based Designs”). In the discussions set forth below, Applicant does not acquiesce to any rejection or averment in this Office Action unless Applicant expressly indicates otherwise.

Applicant respectfully traverses the § 112(1) rejection for the reasons presented in the Response dated August 5, 2008. Without acquiescence, and for the purpose of expediting prosecuting, Applicant submits that the present amendment renders the rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the § 112(1) rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully traverses the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-9, 13, 15, and 17 and 19-21 (each of which is based on Venkataraman in view of Distler) because the Distler reference provides no teaching or suggestion that would cure the admitted deficiencies of the Venkataraman reference, and thus the proposed combination does not correspond to the claimed invention. In particular, it is admitted in the Final Office Action that Venkataraman fails to disclose, for a series of compatible vectors, selecting between a random fill process and a non-random fill process based on the number of compatible vectors. Applicant submits that Distler also provides no such teaching or suggestion. While Distler appears to teach that random-fill and repeat-fill techniques may both be used during testing, there is nothing to teach or suggest the selection of one technique over the other based on the

number of compatible vectors. Rather, the cited portions of Distler disclose that random-fill is used during one stage in the testing process, and repeat-fill techniques are used during another stage in the testing process. *See, e.g.*, Paragraphs 0053-0057. Moreover, there is no basis in Distler or in the record as a whole to link the use of random-fill and repeat-fill during the testing stage (as taught by Distler) to the selection of random fill or non-random fill, based on the number of compatible vectors, for filling in the don't care bits of compatible vectors prior to merging the compatible vectors, as claimed. Accordingly, the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-9, 13, 15, and 17 and 19-21 is improper and Applicant over requests that it be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks above, Applicant believes that each of the rejections/objections has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the agent overseeing the application file, Peter Zawilski, of NXP Corporation at (408) 474-9063.

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